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To the Generall Clothiers of *England* of the Old and New Drapery.

Gentlemen,

WHereas *Mr.* Bedle *hath set out a book in print, entituled* His Remonstrance and Vindication, *and sent it to the* General Clothiers of England; *which in regard it is of such dangerous consequence, that may beget an ill opinion of those men that have beene Agents for the Clothiers, and have prosecuted their Action with their persons and purses, as well as* Nat: Bedle, *to the utmost of their power: it hath caused them to send out this Remonstrance, to certifie*

the truth of the matter, which they ſhall be ready to prove upon oath, as well as Mr. Bedle *hath done*, Concerning his Remonſtrance and Vindication.

They doe not deſire that Mr. Bedle *ſhould be undervalued and diſ-eſteemed of the Clothiers, for his worth, care, charge, and paines, in the proſecution of ſo great a buſineſſe, that doth concerne the generall good of the Kingdome; neither do they queſtion his Eſtate, Progenitors, nor Gentility, it being a matter of no value to be enquired after: But becauſe he hath declared himſelf to be the only man that hath done the whole worke, and not only ſlighted, but diſgraced thoſe that have ſupported him in the proſecution of it, with their advice and money; they doe here declare the truth, as followeth.*

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THis buſineſſe hath been followed for th Clothiers by able, honeſt, and ſufficient men, long before Mr. *Bedle* was acquainted with it, who did as much look to the publike good in it as he hath or will do: all the grievances were preferred by way of Petition & Bill to the honourable Houſe of Commons at the beginning of this Parliament; and it is to be believed, it had beene finiſhed before N. B. did enter upon it, had it not bin for the miſerable diſtractions of the times: Concerning Mr. *Bedle*, he entred upon this buſineſſe a little above two yeares ſince: and whereas he doth write, he was drawn into it by the Company, eſpecially by W. T. Surely, that is very unlikely, for he being acquainted with the buſines by a friend of his R. B. who after he had informed him was very earneſt and deſirous from time to time that he might joyne with the Agents in the proſecution of it for the Clothiers, and for the money that he diſburſed, there was a great deale of money expended before he was acquainted with the buſineſſe, and that which hee paid was not halfe ſo much as divers of the Agents had diſburſt long before.

And whereas he writes, that he had bin employed by the Parliament: He was a Committee man, and a Sequeſtrator for *Norfolke*; and as he did acknowledge himſelfe, the place was very beneficiall unto him. But a little before he did enter upon this employment he was diſmiſſed of that place: whether it were for his pride, or his unfaithfulneſſe, is beſt known to himſelfe: And to the Parliament, who put him out of that employment, and put another in his roome: Surely, this is certain; his proud and lofty carriage

hath made him diſeſteemed, and not approved of, not only of the Agents, but of divers eminent Clothiers of the Kingdome: for hee being firſt choſen Agent by the Company, before ever he was acquainted with the Clothiers; and albeit he was from time to time furniſhed with money from them; not onely for his weekly allowance, which was 4.s. a week, beſides his extraordinary expences: but alſo ſuch ſum and ſums of money, as he did ſtill demand for the charges, in the proſecution of the ſaid buſineſſe: yet notwithſtanding he had ſuch a proud and lofty mind, that he would ſeldome, or never meet the Agents, to make known unto them the proceedings of the buſineſſe; & he was grown to that height of pride of late, that he did diſdaine that any man ſhould be ſeene in the buſineſſe but himſelfe, unleſſe they were thoſe whom he did pleaſe, that ſo he might have all the glory, profit, and credit to himſelf: but to leave the generals, and come to particulars.

In Auguſt 1645. R. S. having one or two with him, went to Colcheſter in Eſſex, to gather the hands of the Clothiers to the Petition; who having procured a meeting of the chiefeſt of them, and the petition being drawn up, with their advice and approbation: the ſaid R.S. gathered above twelve hundred hands in that Town: This was done before Mr. Bedle went into the Country: therefore he hath not done all the worke.

Then Mr. *Rozer*, and others of the Company ſent Mr. Bedle to Colcheſter, to aſſiſt R.S. for the gathering of hands in Eſſex & Suffolk, Mr. Rozer giving him

him Bills of Exchange to receive money for their charges: he bringing in his account for that journey 45. l. This was the first going on of the work after Mr. Bedle was entred upon it, and then Mr. Rozer was the onely man that did support him. Albeit he hath so much slighted him since; and not only then, but from time to time after, both with money, advice, and his countenance, for which hee was not well thought of by many of the Agents.

When he was in Essex and Suffolk with R.S. he had his instructions from him, who spent a great deal of time with him both by day and by night, to instruct him in the businesse: and albeit he was in the Country to assist R.S. in getting of hands: yet R. S. by the help of another got the hands of most places in those Counties without him. Surely Mr. Bedle hath not done all the work.

R. S. and R. B. gathered the hands to the Petition in most of the Counties of England.

W. T. E. R. R. B. *With the helpe of others got more friends to promote it in the House, then he did, and hath still attended from time to time when the Committee sate to prosecute the businesse.*

But what hath Mr. Bedle done? In the first place, he spent above ten pound, and five weekes time to mend the Petition: and when he had done all that he could doe, he made it worse then it was before: He doth make the world believe, he hath done great matters for the Clothiers: pray God it doth not prove that he hath done more harme then good to the businesse: Surely he hath spent the most part of the time these two yeares in writtings, and printing frivolous Bookes, and letters that have done moee harme then good, especially the last book that is able to make a mans eares itch to hear it, and benum his senses to read it: those that have support-

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ed him this time with advice and money have found him to be a proud and ſelf-conceited man: he thinks unleſſe he doth it, it cannot be done: there is not a wiſe man amongſt the Agents, but only he: but the truth is, he hath proved himſelf to be the veriſt fool of all, in procuring thoſe to be his enemies that were his beſt friends in the ſupporting of him in this buſineſſe: He writes that he hath beate his braines, and tyred out his ſpirits in contriving the buſineſſe, and anſwering objections of the Staplers: It were better that his own workes did praiſe him in the gate. How came he by this knowledge? Was he bred up a Clothier? Could he ſpeak experimentally; if not then, he muſt have it from ſome body. You have heard before in part how he get it; the truth is, he hath been a Solicitor of the Law, and they are men that will have a hand in any buſineſſe to get money. No ſooner was he entred upon the buſineſſe, but he ſought for weekly allowance, and he had it: Others have ſpent their time, paines, and money in the buſineſſe, and hath had nothing yet: He hath written a Remonſtrance and Vindication, and he hath quoted divers places of Scripture; but as the Divell did to Chriſt: He hath written ſome truths; but that truth that would not advance his applauſe and honour amongſt you, that he hath left out: Therefore they have added ſomething more unto it; and ſo they leave him and all his bookes together.

But concerning the great buſineſſe that is now in agitation that doth concern the generall good of the Clothiers of this Kingdome: There be divers honeſt able and ſufficient men that have undertook the proſecution

ſecution of this buſineſſe for you, and will goe on without Mr. Bedle, and they are willing and ready to further the buſineſſe in the proſecution of it to the utmoſt of their power: They do not think it beſt that one man ſhould proſecute it alone, as Mr. Bedle ſaith he hath done: Albeit others have done more for the good of the buſineſſe, then he hath done: onely this they do preſent to your conſideration, that they are willing and ready with you: and by the helpe of God will be ready, looking at the publique good, & not ayming at their own ends: as alſo with your advice to go on with the worke, deſiring God that it may be effected for the Publique good, which they ſhall nothing elſe deſire; and ſo I reſt,

Your loving friend and ſervant,
A Clothier, R. S.